(b) There has been substantial increase in Container Traffic at Calcutta as will be evident from the following figures:—

Year	Container Traffic in TEUs	
	Calcutta	Haldia
1983-84	25,942	6,689
1984.85	29,223	10,218
1985-86 .. .. (April-October)	24,581	4,691

(c) Considering the fact that five dry docks and adequate infrastructure for shipping repair facilities are available in Calcutta, a scheme for modernisation of dry dock facilities at Calcutta has been sanctioned at a total cost of Rs. 4.76 crores. The scheme has since commenced last year and is continuing. The scheme envisages provision of improved repair facilities with many modern equipment. The facilities when completed will result in savings in outflow of substantial amount of foreign exchange now incurred in having such ship repairs in foreign countries.

Second All India Family Planning Survey

446. SHRIMATI ILA BHATTACHARYA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Second All India Family Planning Survey has submitted its report; and

(b) if so, the salient features thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE DEPARTMENT OF FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Second All India Family Planning Survey was conducted mainly to gauge the present levels of knowledge, attitude and practice of various family planning methods in general and condom in particular. The salient findings of the study are:—

(i) At the national level, a currently married women in the reproductive age group had on an average 3.27 live births and those aged between 40 and 49 years delivered on an average 5.37 live births.

(ii) On an average, the couples who had no living child wanted to have three children. The couples, however did not want an additional child when the peresnt family size exceeded three children. There was a strong son preference and majority of them desired two sons.

(iii) At the national level, 62 per cent of the couples were not aware of various MCH services provided by the government. Of the remaining 38 per cent, only 18.4 per cent had ever availed of these services. 66 per cent of the couples who had been ever visited mentioned that female personnel such as ANM and LHV had visited them.

(iv) The data shows that about 95 per cent of the currently married persons were aware of both vasectomy and tubectomy. Among temporary methods, the awareness of condom was the highest (54 per cent) followed by IUD (43 per cent), pill (36 per cent) and MTP (25 per cent). Among temporary method, a large proportion (37 per cent) of persons were of the opinion that condom was an effective method for preventing unwanted pregnancies as compared to IUD (19 per cent) and pills (18 per cent).

(v) 81 per cent of the currently married persons approved use of family planning, 18 per cent disapproved and the remaining one per cent were neutral.

(vi) Around 2|3rd of the couples never had inter-spouse communication

either on the number of children they should have or on family planning.

(vii) In India about 35 per cent of the eligible couples were currently practising family planning. Among non-users, about 5 per cent were past users and the rest 60 per cent had never used any method.

(viii) In 1980, 60 per cent of couples not desiring additional children were practising family planning against 22 per cent in 1970. The level of users need has thus reduced considerably during the intervening 10 years.

(ix) The analysis of condom users shows that among the ever users of condom, 45 per cent of them used it every time they cohabited with wife and the rest 55 per cent did so only at times. On an average the couple consumed 7.5 pieces of condoms every month-7.9 pieces in urban and 7.0 pieces in rural areas. The study further revealed that 79 per cent of the condom users in urban areas and 93 per cent in rural areas were using *Nirodh* only. Analysis of sources of supply of condom shows that 33 per cent of the condom users relied upon hospitals or PHCs, 37 per cent obtained supplies from chemists and 18 per cent from provision shops.

Transportation of Phosphoric Acid by Indian Ships

447. SHRI NIRMAL CHATTERJEE: Will the Minister of TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Indian shipping companies with acid carriers have to struggle for cargo when India is one of the largest importers of phosphoric acid;

(b) whether foreign ships are fully loaded with the acid cargo imported by the country;

(c) if so, what are the reasons for denying national ships some of the load;

(d) whether Government propose to revise the practice in future; and

(e) if not, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI RAJESH PILOT): (a) At present, there are only two phosphoric acid carriers under the Indian Flag and they are being regularly employed for the carriage of phosphoric acid to India. However, the purchases being on C&F basis the Indian shipowners have to depend on foreign suppliers for allocation of cargo.

(b) All ships, whether Indian or foreign, are loaded consistent with the quantity available and discharging requirements.

(c) The question does not arise in view of (a) and (b) above.

(d) and (e) The practice is to give first preference to Indian ships, in relation to the import of phosphoric acid the endeavour is to utilise Indian tonnage to the maximum extent possible.

Blindness amongst children

448. SHRIMATI KANAK MUKHERJEE: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that about half a million children blind every year for lack of Vitamin A;

(b) whether Government have any plans to fight this menace on war footing;

(c) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(d) if the answer to part (b) above be in the negative what are the reasons therefore?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE DEPARTMENT OF FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR): (a) Country wide detailed study on the actual incidence of blindness due to Vitamin A deficiency have not been carried out. However, studies carried out at the National Institute of Nutrition revealed that 1 in 10,000 (one in ten thousand) pre-school children develop corneal damage due to Vitamin 'A' deficiency resulting in either partial or total blindness. It is estimated that about 70 to 80 thousand children between the ages of 1 and 5 years can go blind per year due to Vitamin A deficiency.

(b) to (d) There is a scheme of prophylaxis against blindness due to Vitamin